

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 07848 070737Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----002138 070739Z /17/21

O R 041113Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8154
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 7848

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PARA ONE LINE EIGHT ADDED)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EG, FR
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF MIRAGE F-1 SALE TO EGYPT

REF: STATE 54769

1. HENRI SERVANT, QUAI ACTING DIRECTOR FOR NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, TOLD US MARCH 4 THAT THE DENIAL OF RUMORED SALE OF MIRAGES TO EGYPT WHICH HAD BEEN ISSUED MARCH 2 BY THE DASSAULT-BREGUET FIRM WAS "ENTIRELY CORRECT" AND "CONFORMED PRECISELY WITH THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION." SERVANT SAID QUAI DID NOT PLAN TO ISSUE AN OFFICIAL DENIAL BUT ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE SAID THAT IF WE CONSIDERED AN OFFICIAL DENIAL DESIRABLE, HE THOUGHT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO OUR SUGGESTION. WE SAID WE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS TO THAT EFFECT BUT WOULD REPORT HIS PERSONAL VIEWS TO WASHINGTON.
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2. FOR INFORMATION OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN IT, THE DASSAULT DENIAL REFERRED TO BY SERVANT WAS REPORTED BY AFP ON MARCH 2 AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: THE DASSAULT-BREGUET FIRM "FORMALLY DENIES" INFORMATION COMING FROM WASHINGTON ACCORDING TO WHICH EGYPT HAS ORDERED 46 MIRAGE F-1'S FROM FRANCE. THE EGYPTIANS HAVE, IN

FACT, MANIFESTED INTEREST IN THIS PLANE ON DIFFERENT
OCCASIONS, AND PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE FRENCH
BUILDER, BUT THESE HAVE HAD NO FOLLOW-UP AND "NO
NEGOTIATION" IS GOING ON AT PRESENT, DASSAULT
SPECIFIED. DASSAULT SALES TO EGYPT HAVE UP TO NOW
INCLUDED 28 MIRAGE 3'S, UNDER THE TERMS OF TWO
CONTRACTS SIGNED IN 1976 AND 1977, THE FIRM SPECIFIED.
IT IS THOUGHT IN CERTAIN CIRCLES THAT THE INFORMATION
CIRCULATED IN WASHINGTON COULD CONSTITUTE A "MANEUVER"
DESIGNED TO BRING ACCEPTANCE BY AMERICAN OPINION OF
THE POSSIBLE SALE TO EGYPT OF 58 F-5 FIGHTERS BUILT
BY NORTHROP. UNQUOTE.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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